

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

If not directly, broadcast flagging certainly provides a high-potential for abuse and sets a precedent which is hard to reverse.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?

Yes, most certainly.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

Yes.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Yes, I believe that this sort of flagging is prohibitive to new technologies because it limits their use to that deemed acceptable by industry political groups who have very little knowledge of the technology over which they are arguing.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

I believe that the cost of these electronics would go up due to requirements set forth for flagging, probable subscription services to keep up with attempts to circumvent the unfair use of this technology and would require a significant initial investment to consumers because they would need to upgrade or replace existing equipment.

Other Comments:

I believe that DRM and broadcast flagging not only infringe on the rights of the consumer in the current state but, once instituted, provide a legal precedent and a potential for abuse of the consumer that will be extremely difficult to reverse. I find it reprehensible that my elected government is folding to the will of media industry political-action-groups and completely ignoring the rights of the average citizen. The DMCA is the most disturbing piece of legislation that I have ever seen and I pray that some congresspeople with a brain and a spine will take a stand and do what they were elected to do: protect their constituents from fraud and misleading practices of a monolithic conglomerate looking to scratch a few more pennies out of the American public.